

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

APPROVED BY PA/M:WJDYESS

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P 262026Z AUG 75 ZFF4

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT NEW YORK MAGAZINE COMMENTARY,  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1975 ISSUE, TITLED "ON THE HUSTINGS WITH  
HENRY" BY RICHARD REEVES.

2. A POLITICIAN CALLED ON BESS TRUMAN IN INDEPENDENCE,  
MISSOURI, A WHILE AGO, WHICH IS THE KIND OF THING POLITI-  
CIANS DO WITH A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COMING UP. AS HE  
WALKED UP THE STEPS TO GREET THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S  
WIDOW, HE HEARD A WOMAN IN THE WATCHING CROWD YELL OUT,  
"GIVE 'EM HELL, HENRY!"

3. HENRY KISSINGER IS RUNNING JUST ABOUT THE BEST CAMPAIGN  
AROUND THESE DAYS, VISITING WHAT HE CALLS "THE HEARTLAND"  
AND PROVING THAT HE IS NOT ONLY A SUPERB OLD POL BUT  
PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR PUBLIC MAN IN THE UNITED STATES.  
ON HIS LATEST DOMESTIC TRIP, TO BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, TWO  
WEEKS AGO, 2,500 FOLKS APPLAUDED WHEN HE WAS FAVORABLY  
COMPARED TO GOD. IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, THERE WAS  
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APPLAUSE WHEN SOMEONE MENTIONED A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT ALLOWING FOREIGN-BORN AMERICANS TO BECOME  
PRESIDENT. IN MINNEAPOLIS AND MILWAUKEE, MORE THAN A FEW

CIVIC LEADERS CAME OUT OF PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE TELLING ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN, "THAT MAN SHOULD BE PRESIDENT;"

4. "IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA," KISSINGER SAID IN ST. LOUIS, "ONE DOES NOT FIND THE CYNICISM AND PETULANCE THAT MARK SO MUCH OF THE DEBATE IN WASHINGTON."

5. YOU ALSO GET DIFFERENT QUESTIONS OUT THERE. IN WASHINGTON, REPORTERS KEEP ASKING KISSINGER WHETHER HE PLANS TO RESIGN; IN KANSAS CITY, HE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE IF A DEMOCRAT WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1976.

6. THE SECRETARY, WHO HAS NOW TRAVELED 50,000 DOMESTIC MILES TO ADD TO HIS 300,000-PLUS INTERNATIONAL MILES, DECIDED TO HIT LOCAL ROADS WHEN CONGRESSIONAL AND JOURNALISTIC CYNICISM IN WASHINGTON BEGAN TO FLOWER AFTER PEACE SLIPPED OUT OF HIS HANDS AND THOSE SAME HANDS SHOWED TRACES OF BUGGY WATERGATE GOOK. BESIDES, KISSINGER WAS BEING NIBBLED TO DEATH BY WHITE HOUSE DUCKS--DONALD RUMSFELD, BOB HARTMANN, AND RON NESSEN WERE LEAKING ANTI-K. STORIES ALL OVER TOWN. HENRY BLEW IT ON SOLZHENITSYN. HENRY TRIED TO GET PRESIDENT FORD TO GO SOFT ON THE RUSSIANS IN HIS HELSINKI SPEECH. THE PRESIDENTIAL NIBBLERS WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT FORD, NOT KISSINGER, RUNS AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. THEY WANT THEIR MAN TO LOOK LIKE A STRONG PRESIDENT, NOT LIKE THE MAN REPORTERS SOMETIMES SEE. JOHN OSBORNE IN THE NEW REPUBLIC SAW THIS AS THE PRESIDENT TOURED AUSCHWITZ DURING HIS MOST RECENT EUROPEAN EXCURSION. "WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S POLISH GUIDE AND COMMUNIST FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK, MR. FORD'S SENIOR HOST IN POLAND, URGED HIM TO TAKE THE FEW ADDITIONAL MINUTES NECESSARY FOR A PAUSE AT A DORMITORY, REPORTERS SAW MR. FORD LOOK TOWARD KISSINGER. KISSINGER NODDED ASSENT AND THE PRESIDENT WALKED THROUGH A DORMITORY DOOR AND STARED INSIDE."

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7. (RUMSFELD, OF COURSE, MAY BE MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING RUMSFELD, NOT FORD, LOOK LIKE THE STRONG MAN. AT THE VERY LEAST, RUMSFELD SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT RUMSFELD WOULD MAKE A BETTER SECRETARY OF STATE THAN KISSINGER OR, MAYBE, A BETTER VICE-PRESIDENT THAN NELSON ROCKEFELLER.)

8. BUT, AFTER WATCHING KISSINGER IN THE HEARTLAND, I WONDER IF THE WHITE HOUSE LEAKERS HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THEY MAY BE DOING. IF THEY BRING DOWN KISSINGER, THEY COULD DESTROY FORD. IF ONE ASSUMES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT THINK COMPETENCE IS GERALD FORD'S MOST VISIBLE ASSET, THEN

THE PRESIDENT NEEDS KISSINGER AT HIS SIDE IN MORE PLACES

THAN POLAND. BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AT LEAST THE PEOPLE WHO GREETED HIM IN BIRMINGHAM AND OTHER PLACES, SEEMED TO THINK THAT KISSINGER IS VERY COMPETENT--IN FACT, THEY SEEMED TO HOLD HIM IN AWE. KISSINGER MAY HAVE TROUBLES NOW IN SOME SELECT CIRCLES, BUT A MAN WHO SUSPENDED THE DISBELIEF OF WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK FOR FIVE YEARS SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE BIRMINGHAM AND JEFFERSON CITY.

9. AND HE IS. AN AIR FORCE C-141 STARLIFTER ROARED INTO BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT ON AUGUST 13 CARRYING THE SECRETARY'S ARMORED CADILLAC LIMOUSINE WHILE A SECRET SERVICE DETAIL COMPLETED A WEEK OF SEARCHING AND SETTING UP THE ALABAMA CITY--CAMPAIGNING IS AN EXPENSIVE BUSINESS EVEN WHEN IT IS PUBLICLY FINANCED. THEN, LATE ON THE MORNING OF THE 14TH, KISSINGER ARRIVED IN AN EIGHT-PASSENGER JET STAR WITH HIS WIFE, AIDES, AND A BEAMING ALABAMA SENATOR, JOHN J. SPARKMAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND HIS HOST FOR THE DAY.

10. AFTER A MODTORCADE TO THE BIRMINGHAM HYATT HOUSE, THE SECRETARY SAT DOWN FOR A PRIVATE LUNCH WITH 30 SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU LEADERS. THE CHEF AT HUGO'S PROUDLY PRESENTED HIS OWN CREATION, "STRAWBERRIES KISSINGER"--STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, I CALL IT--WITH WHITE DOVES OF WHIPPED CREAM SCATTERED ACROSS THE TOP.

11. IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CIVIC CENTER, KISSINGER  
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WAS INTRODUCED A HALF-DOZEN TIMES TO OVER 2,500 GUESTS AT THE SOUTHERN COMMODITY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE--A "COMMODITY PRODUCER" IS WHAT A NEW YORKER WOULD CALL A REAL BIG FARMER. SPARKMAN INTRODUCED KISSINGER AS "A GREAT SECRETARY OF STATE," BUT THE CLIMACTIC INTRODUCTION WAS AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH IN WHICH J.D. HAYS, PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, PRESENTED KISSINGER WITH A GAVEL MADE OF SHITTIM WOOD, THE WOOD OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, WHICH COMES FROM A TREE THAT GROWS IN BOTH SINAI AND NORTHERN ALABAMA. HAYS, WITH BIBLICAL REFERENCES AND INTONATIONS, URGED KISSINGER TO CONTINUE HIS MISSION OF "PEACE ON EARTH" THROUGH A ROAR OF APPLAUSE.

12. THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WAS LONG AND SERIOUS. IT MIGHT BE CALLED DULL, BUT I FOUND A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT IT POLITICALLY INTERESTING. FOR ONE THING, KISSINGER, WHO PUTS A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, DID NOT TALK DOWN TO HIS AUDIENCE WITH ALL ITS DOUBLE-KNITS AND BEEHIVES AND ROWS OF WHITE PATENT-LEATHER BOOTS. THE FOLKS IN BIRMINGHAM HEARD THE SAME THINGS THAT KISSINGER MIGHT USE IN A SPEECH TO THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. AND I THINK THEY APPRECIATED IT--

AMERICANS KNOW THAT RICHARD NIXON WASN'T THE ONLY POLITICIAN WHO THOUGHT OF THEM AS CHILDREN. (THEY MAY NOT, HOWEVER, HAVE UNDERSTOOD IT ALL. IN KANSAS CITY, A WOMAN LEAVING A KISSINGER APPEARANCE ASKED A FRIEND, "WHAT IS 'CYPRESS'?" IN MINNEAPOLIS, A REPORTER TOLD KISSINGER HE THOUGHT HE WAS "THE GREATEST SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN AMERICAN HISTORY.")

13. THE OTHER POLITICALLY INTERESTING POINT WAS THE SINGLE LINE IN THE SPEECH WHICH GOT, FAR AND AWAY, THE MOST APPLAUSE: "IF WE ARE TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENT, WE MUST STOP DISMANTLING OR DEMORALIZING OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE." I SUSPECT THAT THE SUSTAINED APPLAUSE THAT FOLLOWED IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF HOW FAR CONGRESS WILL REALLY GO IN CHANGING THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

14. AFTER THE SPEECH, THE SECRETARY TOOK A FEW WRITTEN UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND THEN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH BEGAN WITH AN ALABAMA REPORTER STANDING AND SAYING, "ON BEHALF OF THE NEWS MEDIA OF ALABAMA, I WELCOME YOU AND MRS. KISSINGER TO OUR STATE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING US THIS TIME." WHEREVER HE GOES, KISSINGER IS TREATED THAT WAY, AS A MAN ABOVE THE GAMES OF POLITICS. IN BIRMINGHAM, THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS, JOHN BLOOMER, SAT ON THE DAIS BEHIND KISSINGER AS THE SECRETARY SPOKE.

15. AFTER ANOTHER PRIVATE RECEPTION WITH 60 POLITICAL, BUSINESS, AND LABOR DIGNITARIES, KISSINGER TOOK OFF AGAIN FOR WASHINGTON. IT WAS A TRIUMPHANT SIX HOURS THAT COULD BRING TEARS OF FRUSTRATION TO THE EYES OF YOUR AVERAGE STRUGGLING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

16. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY NOT BE "THE GREATEST PERSON IN THE WORLD"--A TITLE HE WON IN A VOTE BY THE 51 CONTESTANTS IN THIS YEAR'S "MISS U.S.A." PAGEANT--AND HE HAS NEVER RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AND CAN NEVER BE PRESIDENT BECAUSE HE IS FOREIGN BORN, BUT HENRY KISSINGER HAS A CONSTITUENCY. HE HAS TAKEN AMERICA'S POLITICIANS ON AT THEIR GAME ON THEIR TURF AND HE IS WINNING EASILY. HIS DOMESTIC TRIUMPHS MAY REVEAL MORE ABOUT AMERICAN POLITICIANS AND LEADERSHIP THAN THEY DO ABOUT HIM OR ABOUT HIS FOREIGN POLICY. THIS MEMBER OF THE COURT HAS MORE CREDIBILITY, MORE POPULARITY, AND, PERHAPS, MORE POWER THAN THE KING. THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT IS RARELY MENTIONED BY OTHERS WHEN KISSINGER TRAVELS. THAT VACUUM, AS IF FORD

HAS NO EXISTENCE OTHER THAN LOVELY FAMILY PICTURES IN TIME MAGAZINE, MAKES ME WONDER ABOUT ALL THE TALK THAT

FORD WILL BE A FORMIDABLE CANDIDATE IN 1976. (END TEXT)

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE202919  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750295-0558  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197508102/baaaatcy.tel  
**Line Count:** 221  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PFOR, PGOV, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006